



American Red Cross

Southern Arizona Chapter

Operation Desert Home
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Operation Desert Home

Tucson, AZ

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional Districts: 1,7,8
State Legislative Districts: 5, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30
Project Federal Share: \$ 112,502K
Project Local Match: \$ 92,930K

Community Need

Southern Arizona is home to more than 17,200 active military personnel and their families, making it one of the busiest military areas in the country and the busiest in Arizona. Operation Desert Home fills a gap in the delivery of critical social services to military personnel, veterans and their families. This gap exists for two reasons: because military personnel often cannot access services offered through the Department of Defense's social support services or the Veterans Administration (VA), due to location of residence and/or other social service agencies simply don't offer services that military families and veterans need.

Our districts include more than 95,000 veterans, the ninth-largest veteran population in the country (U.S. Census, 2008).

We have a Veteran's Administration (VA) Hospital which serves 450,000 outpatients each year and more than 9,000 inpatients each year, five VA satellite clinics, and a Warrior Transition Unit. (WTU- specialized hospital unit for service members injured in the line of duty) As well as 2 active duty bases, and an active AZNG Guard Wing.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Operation Desert Home was implemented on October 18, 2010. Within the 1st quarter, the team has opened 25+ military family cases, briefed over 1000 military members, veterans and their families and participated in training and orientation relevant to their assigned projects within the scope of Service to Armed Forces as well as the Red Cross Mission.

Partnerships

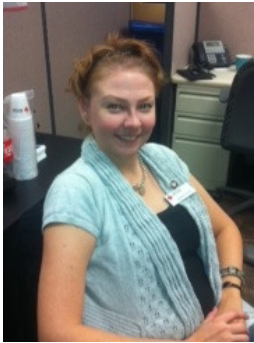
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Sierra Vista Regional Health Center
Joint Family Programs (AZNG – Phoenix)
Southeastern Arizona Community Action Project (SEACAP)
Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans (TVSV)
Department of Economic Security (DES)
Tucson Planning Collaboration to End Homeless
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Ft. Huachuca Army Post
162nd Fighter Wing (AZNG)
Operation Military Kids (OMK)



Lupita Monroy – AmeriCorps member speaking with a Naval Reservist at a Yellow Ribbon Event

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Program Activities - Operation Desert Home is staffed by 9 AmeriCorps Members



Samantha Bivens (Chapter): Administrative Coordinator for our grant, Sam is responsible for member managing the AmeriCorps and for stepping in to help the other AC members with their projects and programs. Sam's SAF project is creating a FREE tutoring program for Guard and Reserve Families as well as Veterans that are not eligible for the free tutoring that Active Duty military are entitled to. Sam is also a member of the State's LeaderCorps Program!



Bob Graham (Chapter): Military & Veteran Families Specialist – Bob is a retired former First Sergeant, and comes to us with LOTS of military knowledge as well as contact resources! Bob works closely with myself and Scott McDowell on the assistance needs our military members and veterans in regards to financial aid, social needs, behavioral and other referral resources. Bob's AmeriCorps SAF Project is creating the AMAZING RACE for the April Month of Military Child event at Triangle Ranch, in collaboration with Operation Military Kids. Bob will also be helping to create our "Yellow-Ribbon; Hail & Farewell Team"



Scott McDowell (Chapter): Military & Veteran Families Specialist – Scott also comes to us with a military background, a former Marine Officer and retired civil servant. Scott works closely with myself and Bob Graham on the assistance needs our military members and veterans in regards to financial aid, social needs, behavioral and other referral resources. Scott's SAF project is The Mentor Program that we are developing with SAVAHCS to pair homeless veterans in the judicial system with mentors that will aid in their rehabilitation into society as viable members.



Vanessa Henderson (Sierra Vista): Community Readiness Coordinator – Vanessa is our staffer if Sierra Vista, in the upcoming weeks, Vanessa will be working out of a coordinated office at the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center. Vanessa works to connect our program with resources and organization in Cochise County and work closely with the WTU. Vanessa is a life-long Army brat and is married to an OIF/OEF Veteran.



Lupita Monroy (Santa Cruz County): Community Readiness Coordinator – Lupita is our Nogales staff member who will be working out of the SECAP office 2 days a week. Also an active Red Cross disaster member, she is also the wife of a Veteran, Lupita's project is to build an outreach program to support the military members in her communities and county to bridge resources with community partners. With the Border Mission well underway, Lupita is busy with coordinating efforts for support services with our military.

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Lolita Pate (Safford/Graham-Greenlee Counties): Community Readiness Coordinator – Lolita is our Safford staffer, covering 2 counties in our area of responsibility. Lolita is currently working out of the Safford Armory, and is also another proud spouse of an Army National Guardsman. Lolita's project is to build an outreach program to support the military members in her community counties and to bridge resources with community partners.



Krista Titus (Phoenix): Community Resource Coordinator – Krista is our staffer if PHX, she is working out of the Joint Family Programs Office but is currently working with the Arizona Coalition of Military Families (non-profit) in identifying community partners that provide services or will provide tailored services to our military personnel state-wide. Krista is the proud spouse of an Army National Guardsman.



Kathleen Joy (Chapter): Homeless Veteran & Families Specialist – Kathleen works a dual role, working homeless veterans outreach and finance department in relation to our awarded grant. Former Manager of one of our Local shelters, Kathleen has a passion to serve our Veteran Homeless and will be actively working to increase the capacity resources for our Veteran Stand Downs, held 2x year.



Kyle Malhotra (Chapter): Military & Youth Outreach –Kyle has been volunteering here at the Chapter in Service to Armed Forces as a Military Emergency Messaging Caseworker for over a year. Kyle is now in his 1st year as a Pharmacy student at the UofA and we are happy to have him on our AmeriCorps Team! Kyle's SAF Project will be coordinating collaborative efforts with the National Guard Drug Demand Reduction Team to serve outreach to youth and deterrence of prescription drug abuse

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Mission

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

The American Red Cross Southern Arizona Chapter helps children and families prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Our chapter is comprised of 17 paid staff and 500+ volunteer staff who serve a 5-county area, including Pima, Santa Cruz, Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties.

Vision

Humanity.

Impartiality.

Neutrality.

Independence.

Voluntary Service.

Unity.

Universality.

Service to Armed Forces

While providing service to 1.4 million active duty military personnel and their families, the Red Cross also reaches out to more than 1.2 million members of the National Guard and Reserves and their families living in nearly every community in America



Krista Titus – AmeriCorps Member participating in letter writing to our deployed and hospitalized military with Girl Scouts



Kyle Malhotra – AmeriCorps Member at Homeless Connect

History

The American National Red Cross was founded in 1881 and chartered by an act of Congress in 1900. Guided by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, the American Red Cross represents the United States of America in the International Red Cross Movement.

The International Red Cross Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation, and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions. It endeavors to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

The concept of a "Red Cross" was born in 1859, when Henry Dunant, a young Swiss man, came upon the scene of a bloody battle in Solferino, Italy, between the armies of imperial Austria and the Franco-Sardinian alliance. Some 40,000 men lay dead or dying on the battlefield, and the wounded were lacking medical attention. Dunant organized local people to bind the soldiers' wounds and to feed and comfort them. On his return, he called for the creation of national relief societies to assist those wounded in war.

In October 1863, The International Red Cross Movement was created in Geneva, Switzerland, through the Geneva Convention, to provide nonpartisan care to the wounded and sick in times of war. Today, the Red Cross Movement is structured, in some ways, like the United Nations. It is comprised of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation). The International Red Cross includes representative Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Crystal and Magen David Adom Societies from 175 countries, including the American Red Cross.

Clara Barton (1821-1912) dominates the early history of the American Red Cross, which was modeled after the International Red Cross. She was the first person to establish a lasting Red Cross Society in America. She successfully organized the American Association of the Red Cross in Washington, D.C., in May 21, 1881. Created to serve America in peace and in war, during times of disaster and national calamity, Barton's organization took its service beyond that of the International Red Cross Movement by adding disaster relief to battlefield assistance. She served as the organization's volunteer president until 1904.